

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 AGR-05 L-03 H-02 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 /068 W

----- 030030

R 191645Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5826

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, EIND, ETRD, EEC, IT

SUBJECT: EC AIRCRAFT POLICY-THE SPINELLI PAPER

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 239, (B) BONN 1373

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED SPINELLI PAPER ON EC AIRCRAFT POLICY WITH MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) REP FUXA (DIRECTOR, EC/GATT AFFAIRS), WHO SAID GOI "STILL STUDYING" THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE PAPER. HE NOTED THAT SPINELLI PAPER WAS NOT WELL RECEIVED BY THE ITALIAN AEROSPACE INDUSTRY AND THAT MFA WOULD BE CONVENING INTER-MINISTERIAL MEETING TO FORMULATE A GOI POSITION.

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2. ON PERSONAL BASIS, FUXA SAID HE CONCERNED THAT SPINELLI PAPER MIGHT FAVOR ALREADY EXISTING "UNECONOMIC" PRO-

JETS, SUCH AS THE CONCORDE, IN WHICH THE ITALIAN ROLE WOULD BE LIMITED TO "SUBCONTRACTOR STATUS." HE STATED THAT GOI HAS NO OBJECTION TO STUDYING THE SITUATION IN THE EUROPEAN AEROSPACE INDUSTRY, BUT THAT WHATEVER PROGRAM/PROCEDURE IS ADOPTED BY EC "MUST NOT LEAD TO CONFRONTATION WITH THE US AEROSPACE INDUSTRY." FUXA REMARKED THAT ITALY FAVORS A SYSTEM IN WHICH MANAGEMENT IS "DECENTRALIZED."

3. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP WITH FUXA ASAP TO ASCERTAIN RESULTS OF INTER-MINISTERIAL MEETING(S), CHAIRED BY MFA, WHICH DISCUSSED SPINELLI PAPER.

4. COMMENT: ITALIAN AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY,--WHOSE MOST IMPORTANT PRODUCERS, AERITALIA AND AGUSTA, HAVE MAJORITY GOI OWNERSHIP--WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO PICK AND CHOOSE PROJECTS IN WHICH IT PARTICIPATES; IT DOES NOT WANT A SITUATION IN WHICH A HIGHER AUTHORITY, SUCH AS EC COMMISSION, WOULD MAKE SUCH DECISIONS. ITALIANS IMPRESSED WITH COMMERCIAL SUCCESS OF US CIVIL AIRCRAFT AND WOULD PREFER TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH US COMPANIES (EVEN IF IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER EUROPEANS) RATHER THAN A STRICTLY EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM. ITALIANS ARE MUCH MORE INTERESTED IN VIABLE LONG-TERM PROJECTS THAN IN PRESTIGE. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, AEROSPACE INDUSTRY, AIRCRAFT, PAPERS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), JOINT VENTURES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME02718
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760066-0043
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760234/aaaabdsq.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 EC BRUSSELS 239, 76 BONN 1373
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <31 MAR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC AIRCRAFT POLICY-THE SPINELLI PAPER
TAGS: EAIR, EIND, ETRD, IT, EEC, (SPINELLI, ALTIERO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006